



RESPONSIBLE REFORM FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS DEMOCRATS . SENATE . GOV / REFORM

Mississippi: The Cost of Inaction

Mississippi Families Suffer

Mississippi insurance premiums skyrocket

- ✓ In 1997, family health insurance purchased through an employer cost \$4,571.
- ✓ In 2006, the same family health insurance cost \$9,769.
- ✓ By 2016, the same insurance is projected to cost \$20,878, a 114 percent increase over 2006, which will consume 55.2 percent of projected Mississippi median family income.

More uninsured Mississippians

- ✓ Every day, 130 Mississippians lose their health insurance.
- ✓ During the last two years, 950,000 Mississippians under age 65 went without health insurance for some time, which is 37.1 percent of the under 65 population.
- ✓ In 2007, 572,555 Mississippians under age 65 were uninsured for the entire year, which is 22.1 percent of the under 65 population.

Mississippians pay higher premiums due to the uninsured

- ✓ Mississippi families pay a “hidden tax” of \$800 on their health insurance premiums due to the unpaid costs of care for the uninsured.

Mississippi Businesses Suffer

Fewer Mississippians have health coverage at work

- ✓ In 2002, 55.1 percent of Mississippians under age 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance.
- ✓ In 2007, 51 percent of Mississippians had coverage through their employer.

Fewer Mississippi small businesses offer health coverage

- ✓ In 2000, 36.4 percent of small businesses were able to offer health insurance coverage to their employees.
- ✓ In 2006, 27.9 percent of small businesses offered health benefits.

Mississippi Economy Suffers

Health care spending climbs

- ✓ In 2004, Mississippi spent \$14.6 billion on health care.
- ✓ This spending level represents \$5,059 per capita, and is 18.1 percent of the Gross State Product.

Lost economic output of the uninsured due to shorter lives and poorer health

- ✓ This year, the Mississippi economy will lose \$1.3 billion - \$2.6 billion due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured.